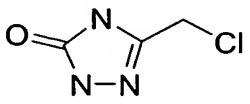
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel the previously withdrawn Claims 57-61 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

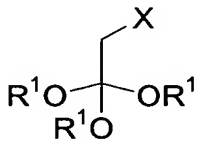
Claims 1-41 (Canceled)

42. (Previously Presented) A process for the preparation of a compound 3-chloromethyl-1,2,4-triazolin-5-one of formula (I):



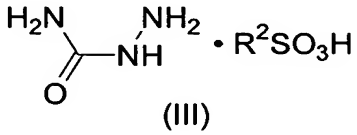
(I)

comprising reacting a triaryl- or trialkyl- orthoester of formula (II):



(II)

wherein X is chloro, and each R^1 independently is independently selected from $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl, and phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with halo or $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl, with a sulfonic acid salt of semicarbazide of formula (III):



(III)

wherein R^2 is independently selected from $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$alkylhalo, $C_{5\text{-}16}$cycloalkyl, and phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with halo or $C_{1\text{-}6}$alkyl, in an organic solvent, and collecting the compound of formula (I).

43. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R^2 is methyl.

44. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R^2 is trifluoromethyl.

45. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R^2 is camphor-10-yl.

46. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the sulfonic acid salt of formula (III), R^2 is *para*-tolyl.

47. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the organic solvent comprises an alkyl alcohol.

48. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 47 wherein the organic solvent comprises methanol.

49. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the orthoester of formula (II), each R^1 is methyl.

50. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the orthoester of formula (II), each R^1 is phenyl.

51. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the reaction temperature is maintained at about 20-70°C.

52. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the reaction temperature is maintained at about 35-45°C.

53. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 42 wherein the collection of the compound of formula (I) comprises the steps of:

concentrating the reaction mixture,

adding a brine solution to the concentrated reaction mixture,

cooling the mixture to form a solid product,

isolating the solid product,

contacting the solid product with an aqueous acid for about 1-6 hours,

and isolating the compound of formula (I).

54. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 53, wherein the brine solution comprises an aqueous sodium chloride solution.

55. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 53, wherein the aqueous acid comprises about 0.5 to 5 N hydrochloric acid.

56. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 53, wherein the aqueous acid comprises about 0.5 to 5 N trifluoroacetic acid.

Claims 57-61 (Canceled)